

Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA

§ 335.1

Sections of act and regulations	Classes of operators	State	Effective date of designation
		Rhode Island	Mar. 29, 1982.
		Virgin Islands	Nov. 19, 1976.
		Washington	Jan. 31, 1975.

[35 FR 19667, Dec. 29, 1970]

EDITORIAL NOTE: For FEDERAL REGISTER citations affecting § 331.6, see the List of CFR Sections Affected in the Finding Aids section of this volume.

PART 335—RULES OF PRACTICE GOVERNING PROCEEDINGS UNDER THE FEDERAL MEAT INSPECTION ACT

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AUTHORITY: 21 U.S.C. 601-695; 7 CFR 2.17, 2.55.

SOURCE: 42 FR 10960, Feb. 25, 1977, unless otherwise noted.

Subpart A—General

§ 335.1 Scope and applicability of rules of practice.

(a) The Uniform Rules of Practice for the Department of Agriculture promulgated in subpart H of part 1, subtitle A, title 7, Code of Federal Regulations, are the Rules of Practice applicable to adjudicatory, administrative proceedings under sections 4, 6, 7(e), 8, and 401 of the Federal Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 604, 606, 607(e), 608 and 671). In addition, the Supplemental Rules of Practice set forth in subpart B of this part shall be applicable to such proceedings.

(b) The rules of practice set forth in subpart C of this part shall be applicable to the suspension of assignment of inspectors for threats to forcibly assault or forcible assault, intimidation or interference with any inspection service employee pursuant to § 305.5(b) of the regulations (9 CFR 305.5(b)) under the Federal Meat Inspection Act. In addition, the definitions applicable to proceedings under the Uniform Rules of Practice (7 CFR 1.132) shall apply with equal force and effect to proceedings under subpart C.

(c) The rules of practice set forth in subpart D of this part shall be applicable to the suspension of assignment of inspectors under section 3(b) of the Act (21 U.S.C. 603(b)). In addition, the definitions applicable to proceedings under the Uniform Rules of Practice (7 CFR

1.132) shall apply with equal force and effect to proceedings under part 313.

[42 FR 10960, Feb. 25, 1977, as amended at 44 FR 68817, Nov. 30, 1979]

Subpart B—Supplemental Rules of Practice

§ 335.10 Refusal or withdrawal of inspection service under section 401 of the Act.

If the Administrator has reason to believe that the applicant for or recipient of service under Title I of the Act is unfit to engage in any business requiring such inspection because of any of the reasons specified in section 401 of the Act, he may institute a proceeding by filing a complaint with the Hearing Clerk, who shall promptly serve a true copy thereof upon each respondent, as provided in §1.147(b) of the Uniform Rules of Practice (9 CFR 1.147(b)).

§ 335.11 Withdrawal of inspection service for failure of an establishment to destroy any condemned carcass or part thereof or any condemned meat or meat food product.

(a) In any situation in which the Administrator has reason to believe that an establishment which receives inspection service under Title I of the Federal Meat Inspection Act has failed to destroy any condemned carcass or part thereof or any condemned meat or meat food product, as required under sections 4 and 6 of the Federal Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 604 and 606) and the regulations in this subchapter, he may notify the operator of the establishment, orally or in writing, of the Administrator's intent to withdraw (for such period or indefinitely as the Administrator deems necessary to effectuate the purposes of the Act) inspection service from the establishment, pursuant to sections 4, 6, and 401 of the Act (21 U.S.C. 604, 606, and 671) and §305.5(a) of the regulations (9 CFR 305.5(a)), if the establishment fails to destroy the condemned articles involved, as specified in the notification, within three days of the receipt of the notification by the operator of the establishment. In the event of oral notification, a written confirmation shall be given, as promptly as circumstances permit, to the operator of the estab-

lishment of the intent to withdraw inspection. The written notification or confirmation shall be served upon the operator of the establishment in the manner prescribed in §1.147(b) of the Uniform Rules of Practice (7 CFR 1.147(b)).

(b) If any establishment so notified fails to destroy any condemned carcass or part thereof or any condemned meat or meat food product as specified in the notice, the Administrator may issue and file a complaint in accordance with the Uniform Rules of Practice. Effective upon service of the complaint, inspection service under the Act shall be withdrawn from such establishment as provided in sections 4, 6, and 401 of the Federal Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 604, 606 and 671), pending final determination in the proceeding.

§ 335.12 Withholding use of marking, labeling, or containers from use under section 7 of the Federal Meat Inspection Act.

(a) In any situation in which the Administrator determines that any marking or labeling or size or form of any container in use or proposed for use with respect to any article subject to Title I of the Federal Meat Inspection Act is false or misleading in any particular, he shall notify, in writing, the person, firm, or corporation using or proposing to use such marking, labeling, or container that such use shall be withheld unless the marking, labeling, or container is modified in such a manner as the Administrator may prescribe so that it would not be false or misleading.

(b) The written notification shall briefly set forth the reason for withholding the use of the marking, labeling, or container, and shall offer the respondent an opportunity to submit a written statement by way of answer to the notification and a right to request a hearing with respect to the merits or validity of the withholding action. The written notification shall be served in the manner prescribed in §1.147(b) of the Uniform Rules of Practice (7 CFR 1.147(b)).

(c) Effective upon service of the notification, the use of the marking, labeling, or container shall be withheld, if the Administrator so directs.

(d) If any person, firm, or corporation so notified fails to accept the determination of the Administrator and files an answer and requests a hearing, and the Administrator, after review of the answer, determines the initial determination to be correct, he shall file with the Hearing Clerk the notification, answer and request for hearing, which shall constitute the complaint and answer in the proceeding, which shall thereafter be governed by the Uniform Rules of Practice.

§ 335.13 Refusal or withdrawal of inspection service under the Federal Meat Inspection Act for failure to maintain sanitary conditions.

(a) In any situation in which the Administrator determines that the sanitary conditions of an establishment which is applying for inspection or receiving inspection under Title I of the Federal Meat Inspection Act are such that any meat or meat food product prepared therein are or would be rendered adulterated, he shall refuse to allow said meat or meat food products to be labeled, marked, stamped, or tagged as "inspected and passed," pursuant to section 8 of the Act (21 U.S.C. 608). The Administrator shall notify the applicant or operator of the establishment, orally or in writing, as promptly as circumstances permit, of such refusal to inspect and pass the meat or meat food products and the reasons therefor, and the action which the Administrator deems necessary to eliminate the insanitary conditions. In the event of oral notification, written confirmation shall be given, as promptly as circumstances permit, to the applicant or operator of the establishment in the manner prescribed in § 1.147(b) of the Uniform Rules of Practice (7 CFR 1.147(b)).

(b) If any applicant or operator of an establishment so notified fails to take the necessary action to eliminate the insanitary conditions within the period specified in the notice, the Administrator may issue a complaint in accordance with the Uniform Rules of Practice. Effective upon service of the complaint, inspection service shall be refused or withdrawn from such establishment as provided in sections 8 and

401 of the Act pending final determination in the proceeding.

Subpart C—Rules Applicable to Suspension of Assignment of Inspectors for Threats to Forcibly Assault or Forcible Assault, Intimidation or Interference With Any Inspection Service Employee

§ 335.20 Notification to operator of establishment of incident.

In any situation in which a supervisor of an inspection service employee determines that the operator of any official establishment or any subsidiary therein, or any officer, employee, or agent of any such operator or any subsidiary therein, acting within the scope of his office, employment, or agency, has threatened to forcibly assault or has forcibly assaulted, intimidated or interfered with any inspection service employee, under his supervision, in or on account of the performance of the employee's official duties under the Act, he shall notify the operator of the establishment, orally or in writing, of the incident in accordance with § 305.5(b) of the regulations in this subchapter (9 CFR 305.5(b)).

§ 335.21 Procedure upon failure of operator of establishment to take action required by § 305.5(b) of the regulations.

(a) If any operator of an establishment notified pursuant to § 335.20 fails to promptly take any of the actions specified in § 305.5(b) of the regulations (9 CFR 305.5(b)), the Administrator may suspend the assignment of inspectors at that establishment, in whole or in part, as the Administrator determines necessary to avoid impairment of the effective conduct of inspection service, by notifying the operator of the establishment, orally or in writing, of such suspension. In the event of oral notification, a written confirmation shall be given, as promptly as circumstances permit, to the operator of the establishment. The written notification or confirmation shall be served upon the operator of the establishment in the manner prescribed in § 1.147(b) of the Uniform Rules of Practice (7 CFR 1.147(b)).

(b) The written notification or confirmation, specified in paragraph (a) of this section, which shall constitute the complaint in the proceeding, shall briefly set forth the reason for the suspension of the assignment of inspectors, including allegations of fact which constitute a basis for the action. The complaint shall offer the respondent opportunity to submit a specific written statement by way of answer and the right to request a hearing with respect to the merits or validity of the suspension action, and shall state the time within which answer by the respondent must be made, which shall not be less than 10 days after service of the complaint. At any time prior to the close of the hearing, the complaint may be amended; but, in case of an amendment adding new provisions, the hearing shall, on the request of the respondent, be adjourned for a period not exceeding 15 days, if the judge determines that such and adjournment is necessary to avoid prejudice to the respondent.

(c) A copy of the complaint served upon the respondent shall be filed with the Hearing Clerk who shall assign the matter a docket number.

(d) After the complaint is served upon the respondent, as provided in paragraphs (a) and (b) of this section, the proceeding shall thereafter be conducted in accordance with rules of practice which shall be adopted for the proceeding.

Subpart D—Rules Applicable to Suspension of Assignment of Inspectors Under Section 3(b) of the Federal Meat Inspection Act

AUTHORITY: Sec. 21, 34 Stat. 1260, as amended, 21 U.S.C. 621; 92 Stat. 1069, 42 FR 35625, 35626, 35631.

SOURCE: 44 FR 68817, Nov. 30, 1979, unless otherwise noted.

§ 335.30 Suspension of the assignment of inspectors under section 3(b) of the Act.

In any situation in which the Administrator has determined that livestock have been inhumanely slaughtered or handled in connection with slaughter

at an official establishment, the Administrator may suspend the assignment of inspectors at that establishment, in whole or in part, as the Administrator determines necessary to prevent inhumane treatment of livestock. The Administrator shall notify the operator of an establishment orally or in writing, of such suspension as soon as possible. In the event of oral notification, a written confirmation shall be given as promptly as circumstances permit to the operator of the establishment. The written notification or confirmation shall be served upon the operator of the establishment in a manner prescribed in § 1.147(b) of the Uniform Rules of Practice (7 CFR 1.147(b)).

§ 335.31 Written notification to operator of establishment of incident.

The written notification or confirmation, specified in § 335.30, shall constitute the complaint in the proceeding and shall briefly set forth the reason for the suspension of the assignment of inspectors, including allegations of fact which constitute a basis for the action. The complaint shall offer the establishment the opportunity to request a hearing with respect to the merits or validity of the suspension action and shall give the establishment the opportunity to furnish written assurances satisfactory to the Secretary that all inhumane slaughtering and handling in connection with slaughter have stopped and will not recur. The complaint shall state the time within which the respondent's answer must be made, which shall not be less than 10 days after service of the complaint.

§ 335.32 Procedure upon receipt of the establishment answer.

If any establishment notified in accordance with § 335.31:

(a) Returns an answer and requests a hearing, the complaint, answer, and request for hearing shall be filed with the Hearing Clerk, who shall assign the matter a docket number. The proceeding shall thereafter be conducted in accordance with the rules of practice which shall be adopted for the proceeding; or

(b) Returns written assurances which the Secretary determines to be unsatisfactory, the establishment shall promptly be informed of this determination in a written notification. Said notification shall briefly set forth the reason the assurances were deemed unacceptable and shall offer the establishment the right to file an answer to the original complaint and to request a hearing with respect to the merits or validity of the suspension action. If any establishment so notified files an answer to the original complaint and requests a hearing, a copy of the complaint, answer, and request for hearing shall be filed with the Hearing Clerk, who shall assign the matter a docket number. The proceeding shall thereafter be conducted in accordance with the rules of practice which shall be adopted for the proceeding.

(c) Returns written assurances which the Secretary determines to be satisfactory, the suspension shall be terminated and the establishment informed of this action as soon as possible.

Subpart E—Criminal Violations

AUTHORITY: Sec. 406, Pub. L. 99-641, 100 Stat. 3571; 21 U.S.C. 606 note.

§335.40 Opportunity for presentation of views before report of criminal violations.

(a) Except as provided in paragraphs (a)(1) through (5) of this section, before any violation of the Federal Meat Inspection Act is reported to the Department of Justice by the Secretary for criminal prosecution the Secretary must give reasonable notice to the suspected violator that the Secretary intends to report the violation for prosecution and give the suspected violator an opportunity to present the violator's views to the Secretary with respect to such proceeding.

(1) Notice and opportunity need not be provided if the Secretary has any reason to believe that providing such notice and opportunity could result in the alteration or destruction of evidence, or where disclosure could result in injury to persons or property.

(2) Notice and opportunity need not be provided if the Secretary has any reason to believe that providing such

notice and opportunity could result in flight of a suspected violator to avoid prosecution.

(3) Notice and opportunity need not be provided if the Secretary has any reason to believe that providing such notice and opportunity could result in compromising special investigative techniques, such as undercover or other covert operations.

(4) Notice and opportunity need not be provided when the impending criminal referral involves suspicion of bribery and related offenses, or clandestine slaughtering and/or processing operations.

(5) Notice and opportunity need not be provided when the impending referral is part of an investigation involving non-Act violations, and the Act and non-Act violations are jointly referred for prosecution.

(b) A notice of opportunity to present views will be sent by registered or certified mail, summarize the violations that constitute the basis of the contemplated prosecution, and describe the procedures for presentation of views. Any information given by a respondent, orally or in writing, shall become part of the Department's official record concerning the matter. The Department is under no obligation to disclose evidence to the suspected violator.

[52 FR 13828, Apr. 27, 1987]

PART 350—SPECIAL SERVICES RELATING TO MEAT AND OTHER PRODUCTS

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350.8 Scope and applicability of rules of practice.

AUTHORITY: 7 U.S.C. 1622, 1624; 7 CFR 2.17, 2.55.

SOURCE: 23 FR 9982, Dec. 23, 1958. Redesignated at 30 FR 4195, Mar. 31, 1965, and at 35 FR 15554, Oct. 3, 1970.